

**CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising:
  - a plurality of unit controllers; and
  - a server controller managing said plurality of unit controllers, wherein said server controller has command means commanding the plurality of unit controllers to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data, the process including rasterization of each color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed, each of said plurality of unit controllers has separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data from the digital data of said objective matter to be printed on the basis of the command by said command means, in response to an inquiry by said server controller, each of said plurality of unit controllers notifies said server controller whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed, and
  - said server controller sends each of said plurality of unit controllers the command to create separate plate data on condition that said preparation is completed,
  - the printing system further comprising a plurality of printing units corresponding to said plurality of unit controllers respectively, wherein
  - each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers the at least one separate plate data to the corresponding printing unit.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to claim 1 [[2]], wherein said server controller has separate plate data storage means storing said plurality of separate plate data created in said plurality of unit controllers, and each of said unit controllers transfers the separate plate data stored in said separate plate data storage means of said server controller to said corresponding printing unit.

4. (Original) The printing system according to claim 3, wherein said server controller has monitoring means monitoring work contents of each of said plurality of unit controllers.

5. (Currently Amended) A server controller in a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising:  
command generation means generating a first command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data between a plurality of unit controllers, said process including rasterization of each color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed; and transmission means transmitting said first command to [[said]] each of the plurality of unit controllers, wherein

said server controller sends each of said plurality of unit controllers an inquiry as to whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed, and sends each of said

plurality of unit controllers an instruction to create separate plate data on condition that a reply notifying completion of said preparation is received,

said command generation means is further configured for generating a second command to transfer at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said each of the plurality of unit controllers among a plurality of printing units, and

said transmission means is further configured for transmitting said second command to said each of the plurality of unit controllers.

6. (Currently Amended) A unit controller in a printing system performing printing on the basis of digital data, comprising:

acceptance means accepting a command signal; [[and]]

separate plate data creation means creating at least one separate plate data among a plurality of separate plate data by rasterizing at least one color component of digital data of objective matter to be printed in response to said command signal; and

transfer means for transferring at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said unit controller among a plurality of printing units, wherein  
said unit controller is communicatively coupled to a server controller, and  
in response to an inquiry by said server controller, said unit controller notifies said server controller whether preparation for creation of separate plate data is completed.

7. (Previously Presented) The printing system according to claim 1, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into

a plurality of color components by the server controller before the rasterization of each color component of digital data is performed by the plurality of unit controllers.

8. (Previously Presented) The printing system according to claim 1, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the plurality of unit controllers before the rasterization of each color component of the digital data is performed.

9. (Previously Presented) The server controller according to claim 5, wherein the process of creating the plurality of separate plate data includes separation of the digital data into a plurality of color components by the server controller before the rasterization of each color component of the digital data is performed by the plurality of unit controllers.

10. (Currently Amended) The unit controller according to claim 6, wherein the separate plate data creation means is configured for separating the digital data into a plurality of color components before rasterizing of the at least one color component of the digital data.

11. (Currently Amended) A printing system comprising:  
a plurality of unit controllers; and  
a server controller for managing said plurality of unit controllers, wherein  
said server controller has command means for sending the plurality of unit controllers a command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data among the plurality of unit controllers ~~and the server controller~~, the process including separation of digital data of

objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components, and rasterization of each color component of the digital data, and

each of said plurality of unit controllers has creation means for performing the process of creating ~~the plurality of separate plate data to create~~ at least one separate plate data among said plurality of separate plate data, based on the command from said command means, the creation means at least performing the rasterization of at least one color component of the digital data after the separation of the digital data,

the printing system further comprising a plurality of printing units corresponding to said plurality of unit controllers respectively, wherein

each of said plurality of unit controllers transfers the at least one separate plate data to the corresponding printing unit.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The printing system according to claim 11 [[12]], wherein said server controller has separate plate data storage means storing said plurality of separate plate data created in said plurality of unit controllers, and

each of said unit controllers transfers the separate plate data stored in said separate plate data storage means of said server controller to said corresponding printing unit.

14. (Previously Presented) The printing system according to claim 13, wherein said server controller has monitoring means for monitoring work contents of each of said plurality of unit controllers.

15. (Previously Presented) The printing system according to claim 11, wherein the server controller performs the separation of the digital data into the plurality of color components.

16. (Previously Presented) The printing system according to claim 11, wherein each unit controller performs the separation of the digital data into the plurality of color components for the rasterization.

17. (Currently Amended) A server controller in a printing system including a plurality of unit controllers, comprising:

command generation means for generating a first command to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data among the plurality of unit controllers ~~and the server controller~~, said process including separation of digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components, and rasterization of each color component of the digital data; and

transmission means transmitting said first command to [[said]] each of the plurality of unit controllers, wherein

said command generation means is further configured for generating a second command to transfer at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said each of the plurality of unit controllers among a plurality of printing units, and

said transmission means is further configured for transmitting said second command to said each of the plurality of unit controllers.

18. (Previously Presented) The server controller according to claim 17, wherein the server controller performs the separation of the digital data into the plurality of color components for the rasterization to be performed by each unit controller.

19. (Currently Amended) A unit controller in a printing system including a plurality of other unit controllers and server controller, comprising:

acceptance means for accepting a command from the server controller, the command requesting the unit controller to share a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data with the plurality of the other unit controllers ~~and the server controller~~, the process including separation of digital data of objective matter to be printed into a plurality of color components, and rasterization of each color component of the digital data; ~~and~~

creation means creating at least one separate plate data among a plurality of separate plate data in response to said command, the creation means at least performing the rasterization of at least one color component of the digital data after the separation of the digital data; and

transfer means for transferring at least one separate plate data to a printing unit corresponding to said unit controller among a plurality of printing units.

20. (Currently Amended) The unit controller according to claim 19, wherein the creation means further performs the separation the digital data into the plurality of color components before rasterizing of the ~~at least~~ least one color component of the digital data.